

The Convention on  
Biological Diversity  
**Year in Review 2011**



# Year in Review 2011

The Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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# Introduction

## 2011: Setting the stage for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity



**AHMED DJOHLAOU**  
Executive Secretary of the  
Convention on Biological Diversity

**2011** was a year to build on the historic success of the Nagoya biodiversity summit, translate its outcomes into action at the country level, and intensify our planning for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India, in 2012.

The year coincided with the opening for signature on 2 February in New York of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization. Sixty-seven parties have already signed the Protocol. The Republic of Gabon was the first signatory to deposit its instrument of accession. The

year also coincided with the opening of signature on 7 March, also in New York, of the Kuala Lumpur Nagoya Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Thirty-six Parties have already signed.

In order to translate the Nagoya biodiversity compact into national realities, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the financial support of Japan, organized 12 regional and sub-regional workshops throughout the year to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, review, updating, and communication of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and to contribute to national implementation of the Strategic Plan through the translation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national targets and commitments. The 2020 Aichi targets countdown was launched in November 2011.

Japan, as President of the tenth Conference of the Parties, demonstrated strong leadership by establishing the Japan Biodiversity Fund, administered by the CBD Secretariat, with a pioneering contribution of 1 billion Yen. In 2011, the Government of Japan generously agreed to replenish the fund for

another year with the same amount in spite of the many new challenges arising in the wake of the 11 March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. In May 2011, at the initiative of the Government of Japan, the Council of the Global Environment Facility approved the establishment of a trust fund to be

### Marie Aminata Khan

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was stunned and profoundly saddened to learn of the untimely death of our dear friend and colleague, Marie Aminata Khan, who passed away in Johannesburg on 12 December 2011 at the age of 47. Marie spent over 17 years of her professional career working with the United Nations, notably with UN-HQ in New York, the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme in New York and, since 2006, UNEP-SCBD in Montreal, Canada.

Marie had a passion for, and commitment to, women's human rights and gender equality. She served as Programme Officer for Gender at the Secretariat of the CBD, where she pioneered the recently adopted CBD programme of work on gender. In this capacity Marie worked closely with the UN Conventions on Climate Change and Desertification and the Global Environment Facility.

Marie will be remembered as a highly competent and dedicated colleague, as well as a very caring, lively and good-natured friend. She is survived by her two sons, Frederic and Charles, her father, step-mother, brothers and sisters. She will be sorely missed.





CBD Secretariat at the staff retreat in Mont Tremblant, Quebec, in February.

administered by GEF to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to which the Government of Japan has contributed an initial grant of \$10 million.

Efforts to promote the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity was another priority in 2011.

Under the UNEP/GEF medium sized project, the Secretariat organized a series of briefings with parliamentarians with a view of expediting the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocols.

The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources, creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use. Hence, the Protocol will create new incentives to conserve biodiversity.

Over the course of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, biodiversity must be mainstreamed

throughout government and all sectors of society through communication, education and awareness-raising, appropriate incentive measures, and institutional change. By 2020, citizens and governments without exception should be firmly committed to the preservation of our biological heritage biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

If the past year can be viewed as a springboard into a future where biodiversity forms an integral part of the global consciousness, at both the individual and governmental levels, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity could very well be construed as the starting point.

At the initiative of Japan, the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. Regional launches took place in Changwon (Republic of Korea), Manila (Philippines), New Delhi (India), Havana (Cuba), Quito (Ecuador) Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Geneva (Switzerland), and San Jose (Costa Rica).

**"Over the course of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, biodiversity must be mainstreamed throughout government and all sectors of society through communication, education and awareness-raising, appropriate incentive measures, and institutional change."**

Officially launched in December 2011 in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, the UN Decade is a vehicle to support both the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is a worldwide celebration of everything we stand to lose by doing nothing and everything we stand to gain by changing our ways. Japan Airlines has made a distinct contribution to achieving the objectives of the Decade by including its logo on one of its Boeing 777s. The Conseil Général de Moselle has also made a great contribution in promoting the UN Decade through its marked apples.

Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets requires the active engagement of all stakeholders without exception. For example, in September 2011 the CBD Secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding with the heads of 27 key agencies of the United Nations, international non-governmental organizations and environmental conventions for better coordination and communication between organizations as they support implementation of the Strategic Plan at global and national levels.

The memorandum creates a task force, which will meet for the first time in October 2012 in Hyderabad in conjunction with the high-level segment of COP 11, to provide a platform for agencies to coordinate their activities in support of the achievement of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Parties to the CBD also recognize the urgent

need to enhance implementation of the Convention through South-South and triangular cooperation. The third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 20 May 2011 with the objective of further developing the Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the Group of 77 and China and welcomed by the Conference of the Parties of the CBD at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. The multi-year plan of action was submitted as a modality for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Sadly, far too many people across the world remain apathetic to the ongoing loss of life on Earth. This is because the majority of the public and policymakers remain ignorant about the irreplaceable contributions that biodiversity makes to human wellbeing. Thus biodiversity loss has yet to fully penetrate our collective consciousness. But I have no doubt that this will change, as nothing less than the future of our planet is at stake. The slogan for the Nagoya biodiversity summit was “Living life in harmony with nature into the future.” For many countries that future is now. As we work our way towards the eleventh meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India, we would do well by heeding its slogan, “Nature protects if She is protected.”





## The Convention for All Life on Earth

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three objectives — the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It addresses issues relating to research and training, public education and awareness, and technical and scientific cooperation.

Negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention is legally binding and Parties are obliged to implement its provisions. Presently it includes 193 members—192 countries and the European Community.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the CBD through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings. The COP has established seven thematic

programmes of work — agricultural biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, and inland waters biodiversity.

Each programme establishes a vision for, and basic principles to, guide future work. They also set out key issues for consideration, identify potential outputs, and suggest a timetable and means for achieving these. Implementation of the work programmes depends on contributions from Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant intergovernmental and other organizations. They are periodically reviewed by the COP and the open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body known as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which conducts assessments of status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity and provides the COP with scientifically, technically and technologically sound advice on the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.



# Implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Nagoya Outcomes

## The Japan Biodiversity Fund becomes fully operational *First tranche of funds allocated*

**T**he Japan Biodiversity Fund, established by the Government of Japan, the Presidency of the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10), to build capacity to support implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Outcomes in developing countries, became fully operational in 2011, with the first tranche of funds fully allocated. These funds allow the CBD Secretariat enhance its support for Parties for the implementation of the Convention, improve coherence among the various initiatives under the Convention, and strengthen cooperation with partner organizations.

Specifically, the goals of the Fund are to support the Secretariat in assisting Parties to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and help Parties revise their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to include national targets and in accordance with the Strategic Plan; and strengthen their capacity to implement the Convention.

The Japan Biodiversity Fund comprises two main categories of activities. Firstly, a major element of the Fund is the support to countries to update and revise their NBSAPs through regional capacity building workshops. Secondly, in addition to the NBSAP workshops, the Fund supports the Secretariat of the CBD to carry out activities for the implementation of COP 10 Outcomes within existing Programmes of Work and other initiatives.

During 2011, the Secretariat delivered 14 regional capacity-building workshops. The specific objectives of these workshops were to:

- ▶ Assist Parties to integrate national targets and commitments into a ‘new generation’ of NBSAPs that can be effective tools for mainstreaming biodiversity into broader national policies
- ▶ Facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including by helping Parties integrate the Biodiversity Strategic Plan, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, into national targets, commitments, and actions
- ▶ Raise awareness to stimulate early actions for other Aichi-Nagoya Outcomes, in particular the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress for Biosafety
- ▶ Facilitate and support the implementation of other COP 10 decisions, for example, promoting the findings of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study
- ▶ Facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for National Focal Points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs.

The following workshops were held in 2011:

1. Southern Africa (Kasane, Botswana, 14–20 March)
2. Europe (Vilm, Germany, 15–19 April)
3. North Africa & Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon, 2-7 May)
4. East, South & Southeast Asia (Xi'an, China, 9-16 May)

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### FACT

More than 60 million people are employed by forest-based industries.

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5. West Africa (Dakar, Senegal, 22-26 May)
6. Central Africa (Brazzaville, Congo, 19-23 June)
7. East Africa (Kigali, Rwanda, 27-30 June 2011)
8. Europe (PEBLDS) (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June-1 July)
9. South America (Quito, Ecuador, 13-16 July)
10. Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 3-7 October)
11. Central Asia (Istanbul, Turkey 17-20 October)
12. Caribbean (St George's, Grenada, 17-21 October)
13. Meso-America (San Jose, Costa Rica, 28 Nov-2 Dec)
14. Central and Eastern Europe (Minsk, Belarus, 5-8 Dec)

The workshops are organized in partnership with relevant regional bodies, such as the regional offices of UNEP, UNDP, UN Regional Economic Commissions and IUCN and its regional commissions. The Secretariat has developed an indicative agenda and "generic" information materials for the workshops, although the actual programme and content of the workshops are responsive to regional needs and priorities. To this end, each workshop is specifically adapted to meet the needs and priorities of the sub-region as revealed by the Fourth National Reports and other sources, or as requested specifically by the Parties. This includes focusing on particular

issues and re-adjusting training and small group sessions as relevant.

In addition to the workshops, the Japan Biodiversity Fund also supports other activities. With regards to public awareness, the Secretariat organized several briefing sessions on the Aichi-Nagoya Outcomes (including the Strategic Plan, the Protocols and other major decisions). These briefing sessions took advantage of the activities of other UN Organizations, partner organizations, as well as commemorative dates and events. The briefings target CBD focal points, permanent representatives to UN bodies, parliamentarians and other decision-makers in order to build political support and raise public awareness for the actions needed to implement the Aichi-Nagoya Outcomes, such as the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan and the early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol Briefings completed in 2011 include to the Permanent Missions of the United Nations and its related institutions in New York, Bonn, Geneva and Nairobi. The Fund also supported global and regional launches of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

#### FACT

Primary forests account for 36% of forest area.



## Resource mobilization to support CBD implementation

**A**chieving the ambitious biodiversity targets set in Nagoya and enabling implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization will require resources beyond current commitments. In Nagoya, Parties laid the foundation for achieving this by agreeing to complete national resource needs assessments and put in place a procedure for setting targets and indicators for a revised resource mobilization strategy. This will cover the GEF as the financial mechanism of the Convention plus other international financial flows and innovative financial mechanisms (e.g. PES, REDD+).

During 2011, the Secretariat has continued to support advancement of this work. A series of sub-regional workshops were held, and are on-going, on biodiversity and finance. These have been held in

conjunction with the NBSAP capacity-building workshops and the GEF Constituency meetings. The meetings have helped national representatives to review implementation of the Convention's strategy for resource mobilization – including indicative guidelines for country-specific resource mobilization strategies – and to consider innovative financing for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Meanwhile, work has also been initiated and remains on-going, to assess the funding-needs for implementation of the CBD. This will provide an important input towards negotiations of the GEF-6 replenishment – that will cover the period July 2014 to June 2018. The team of experts assembled to prepare this assessment met in Montreal in July and in Tokyo, Japan in December 2011. The report of the work will be delivered in 2012.

## GEF establishes Nagoya Protocol implementation fund

**A**rising from the leadership and initiative of the Government of Japan, a dedicated Trust Fund for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization was established in March 2011 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The aim of the fund is to facilitate early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

On 26 May 2011, the Council of the GEF approved the role of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as the operator of the fund, with the Government of Japan reaffirming its pioneer contribution of 1 billion Yen (about \$12 million US dollars). Japan's commitment was joined by additional declarations of financial support to the fund of 1 million Euros (about US\$1.4 million) from the Government of France, with additional contributions from the Governments of Norway and Switzerland.

The Government of Japan, acting as the President of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, proposed

in 2010 the establishment of a new voluntary fund at the GEF to help developing countries build their capacity to engage in both the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. The fund is specifically designed to support countries looking to build enabling activities to ratify the protocol as well as finance projects at the national and regional levels that will promote technology transfer, private sector engagement, and the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. The fund will also help Parties build capacity to ensure appropriate access and use of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Resources will also be used to heighten awareness for the Protocol, including through the use of new knowledge management tools.

The GEF, as the financial mechanism of the CBD and other international environment agreements, will manage the new fund and encourage additional contributions. The World Bank will serve as the trustee of the fund.



## Paving the way for implementation of the strategic plan

### *NBSAP regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops help Parties with implementation*

**A**s one of the most important follow-up activities to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, a series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops were organized in 2011 to assist countries in establishing national targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, by COP 11 in 2012, and in revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan, adopting them as policy instruments and fully integrating them into national planning processes, by COP 11 or COP 12 in 2014. This series of workshops will continue in 2012, primarily in the form of follow-up workshops. The workshops are being organized with the generous financial support of Japan and other donors.

responsible for the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs, and by a representative from the finance, economic or development planning ministry, who is in a position to share experiences on mainstreaming biodiversity into national development plans. Moreover, further to the agreement by the heads and representatives of five international conventions on biodiversity (CBD, CMS, CITES, Ramsar, WHC) and major conservation organizations in September 2010, on a common approach to address the biodiversity crisis, based on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Secretariat is taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the workshops to promote synergies among the MEAs to reflect commonalities in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and encourages representation of these institutions at the workshops. Invitations are also regularly extended to regional and

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#### FACT

Trade in forest products was estimated at \$327 billion in 2004.

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sub-regional organizations, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations. Resource persons are recruited locally or regionally to facilitate agenda items and share their expertise on regional issues with participants.

To date, 12 workshops have been held in 2011, covering 11 regions (Southern Africa, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, East, South and South-east Asia, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, South America, Pacific, Caribbean, Central Asia). The Secretariat also took the opportunity to organize another workshop for 14 Pan-European countries in Geneva, in June 2011, back-to-back with the Council Meeting for Members of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) which was not a part of the official 2011 calendar of workshops. Workshops for the regions of Central America and Central and Eastern Europe will also be held in 2011, as will the first follow-up workshop in the series for the region of East, South and Southeast Asia. A workshop for the Mediterranean region will be held in January 2012. The second follow-up workshop in the series will be held in February 2012 for the African region as a whole. To optimize cost-effectiveness and coordination at various levels, workshops on capacity-building for the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) have been held in parallel with NBSAP workshops for regions of West Africa and the Pacific.

A primary objective of the workshops is to facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for national focal points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs. A generic set of presentations, tailored to regional characteristics, is delivered at all workshops, highlighting the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, main outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, focusing on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Further presentations outline the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary

Protocol on Liability and Redress, including the actions needed to achieve early entry into force of these instruments. Others introduce NBSAPs and lessons learned in implementation, the biodiversity planning process, biodiversity mainstreaming and national target-setting in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In addition, workshop agendas typically incorporate elements related to the development of a country-specific resource mobilization strategy for financing NBSAP implementation, and an update on progress towards the establishment of targets for the resource mobilization strategy to be adopted by COP-11 next year. Matters related to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and the use of the Ecosystem Approach as mainstreaming tools are also commonly addressed. Eligible Parties are encouraged to apply for GEF funds for updating and revising the NBSAP and preparing the Fifth National Report at the earliest opportunity.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute signs on to join the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity, becoming its sixteenth member and the first from Africa.



**"A primary objective of the workshops is to facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for national focal points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs."**

Topics that respond to regional priorities or requests received by the Secretariat are also addressed by the workshops.

The first workshop held in March 2011 for countries of Southern Africa focused on, among other matters, integrating biodiversity into relevant national and local planning processes. A representative of ICLEI - Local Action for Biodiversity delivered a presentation on the crucial role of local authorities in implementing targets under Strategic Goal A (Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society). The objective of a field study visit to three different sites (Kalepa Community Trust Electrified Crop Field, Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, Chobe National Park) organized for participants was to demonstrate how biodiversity is being integrated in district-level planning. Strategic communication for NBSAPs, stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming in NBSAPs, South-South and regional cooperation were other topics covered by the workshop. The workshop was supplemented by two additional days specifically focused on biodiversity valuation and incentive measures.

The workshop for countries of East, South and Southeast Asia held in Xi'an, China, in May 2011, had a special focus on Aichi Target 2 related to how the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the application of incentive measures can be used to communicate and mainstream biodiversity in relevant sectors such as agriculture,

forestry, mining, transport and energy. Presentations were made on the work undertaken by the initiative on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), on the experiences of Japan in undertaking valuation and applying incentive measures, and on China's recent work in integrating ecosystem services into land use planning as well as into national environmental accounting. The workshop also addressed the use of national and regional CHMs as a tool for scientific and technical cooperation. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity provided suggestions for the content of a national CHM and shared content of the regional CHM developed for ASEAN, and introduced activities for scientific and technical cooperation among ASEAN member states in various fields such as wildlife enforcement, information sharing, management of protected areas, taxonomic initiatives and ABS.

The workshop held in May 2011 for countries of North Africa and the Middle East emphasized actions for achieving Aichi Target 9, at national and regional levels, through the identification and management of threats posed by invasive alien species. Due to a significant increase in economic activity within the region, and between it and other parts of the world, and to the adoption of increasingly liberal trade policies and higher volumes of tourism, more biological invasions will undoubtedly occur. Risks are exacerbated by a considerable lack of awareness of the severity of the problem, especially among policymakers, as well as limited capacity. Participants highlighted the need for cooperation between the countries of Arab region and the significant role the League of Arab States (LAS) could perform in leading this cooperation. The workshop included one session focused on the scope for developing a regional strategy on invasive alien species, including matters related to the development of a regional CHM dedicated to the issue, awareness-raising and legislation, among others.

*Documents and presentations made at each of the workshops are available at: [www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml).*

*Two issues of the Aichi Targets Newsletter were published in 2011 and are available at: [www.cbd.int/sp/targets](http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets).*

#### FACT

30% of forests are used for production of wood and non-wood products.

## NBSAP status

To date, 173 countries have developed their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Among them, 37 countries have revised their NBSAPs. The revised strategy, launched by the United Kingdom in August 2011, titled "Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services" outlines the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea and contains a set of 2020 outcomes. In addition, 11 countries are developing their first-generation NBSAPs, with the Dominican Republic and Timor-Leste having advised the Secretariat that their NBSAP is close to being finalized and that its development has been guided by the provisions of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

## National Reports

### Fourth National Reports

To date, 178 (92%) Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have submitted their fourth national reports that were due on 30 March 2009.

The larger number of fourth national reports received reflects the higher importance and greater efforts many Parties are giving to the timely preparation of the report. It may also be attributed to the longer time given for preparing the report, as well as to the efforts made by the Convention Secretariat, the Global Environment Facility, its implementing agencies and other partners in facilitating the preparation and submission of the report.

Conclusions drawn from the information contained in the fourth national reports were instrumental to the formulation of new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted by the tenth meeting of the Parties in 2010.

The fourth national reports will continue to be used for reviews of implementation of the Convention to be undertaken at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2012, as well as at some important inter-sessional meetings such as the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Working Group on Article 8(j). The final reports are available at: [www.cbd.int/reports](http://www.cbd.int/reports).

### Fifth National Reports

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties decided that the fifth national reports are due by 31 March 2014 and that reports should focus on implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Parties are encouraged to initiate work as early as possible on revising and updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the new plan and targets, and on the preparation of their fifth national report.

Funding is available from the Global Environment Facility to support eligible countries in the above activities, as are resources to facilitate the preparation of the fifth national report (e.g. Training Module on National Reporting, with a focus on the Fifth National Report, recently updated by the Secretariat).

The Fifth National Reports Information Portal located at [www.cbd.int/nr5/](http://www.cbd.int/nr5/) will be updated on a continual basis with information to assist Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national report in a timely manner.

The fifth national report will provide a key source of information for a mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which will be undertaken at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## South-South Cooperation

### *Roadmap validated and adopted*

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been discussing a coordinated approach to South-South (SSC) and triangular cooperation as a complement to the traditional North-South mechanism since 2006.

In 2011, the third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 20 May 2011 with the objective of further developing the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development (MYPA) as adopted by the Group of 77 and China and welcomed by the Conference of the Parties of the CBD at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. The expert meeting was hosted by the Korean National Institute on Biological Resources and attended by 25 experts from 12 specialized centers in developing countries, seven UN agencies and the G-77 office in New York. The MYPA and its revision

incorporating the suggestions reflected in decision X/23, specifically, on synergies with the Biodiversity Technology Initiative (BTI), biodiversity for development and poverty eradication, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a financing mechanism were reviewed and forwarded to all Parties requesting inputs to be examined at WGRI-4.

The roadmap for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity towards COP 11 in 2012 was validated and adopted at the meeting. The modalities for implementation of the MYPA, including its coordination mechanism and partnership, modalities for the implementation at policy level and at programming level, and the monitoring and evaluation methods were examined and respective guidance were proposed accordingly. In a project fair exercise 12 cooperation concepts were generated. For the first time, agencies from Ministries of Commerce, Foreign Affairs and Planning, working in collaboration with

Participants to the third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 20 May 2011 with the objective of further developing the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the G-77 and China and welcomed by COP 10 at Nagoya in October 2010.





their counterparts in Environment, explored means to incorporate biodiversity into their international cooperation frameworks and strategies. During the meeting, Minister Lee of Korea announced a commitment of contributing USD 250,000 to the multilateral fund on South-South cooperation on biodiversity to be hosted by the GEF.

On 2 June 2011 at the Brazzaville Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the Three Forest Basins (Borneo, Amazon and Congo), hosted by the President of the Republic of the Congo, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, International Tropical Timber Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Secretariat of the CBD also hosted a side event on South-South cooperation and the Plan of Action. The event was attended by over 60 participants, including delegates from the Congo, RDC, Cameroon, Gabon, Germany, US, France, media and executives from International Tropical Timber Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

## Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes

Past, present and future Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD agreed and signed the Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes at their annual high-level meeting at Château de Bossey, Switzerland, on 3 September 2011.

The Call for Urgent Action confirms the continued declining status of the global biodiversity, commits its signatories to increased implementation action to reverse this decline, and calls on governments to:

- ▶ Sign and ratify, as soon as possible, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- ▶ Develop and implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans and adopt national and regional targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- ▶ Celebrate the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity
- ▶ Consider convening a high-level event on biodiversity with participation of Heads of State and Government at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held in September 2015, on the occasion of the mid-term evaluation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- ▶ Increase efforts towards achieving synergies among the three Rio Conventions in light of the interconnectivity of biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

Participants to the meeting heard statements from Tatsushi Tera-da, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of Japan, speaking on behalf of the President of COP 10; Bruno Oberle, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment in the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and viewed a short video message from Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. Hem Pande, representing the Government of India, discussed preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Hyderabad in 2012.

The Call for Urgent Action was forwarded to the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, and to the high-level meeting on Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, both held in New York in September 2011.

*The full text of the Call for Urgent Action can be accessed at: [www.cbd.int/hlm/2011](http://www.cbd.int/hlm/2011).*

## Implementation of the programme of work on Protected Areas and the LifeWeb initiative

Both the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the international protected area community have hailed the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) as the most implemented of the programmes of the CBD and a successful initiative. Some of the many factors of this success were capacity building initiatives such as organization of regional and sub-regional workshops, a comprehensive user friendly website, e-learning modules, and discussion forums.

The e-learning modules developed by the Secretariat are concise, user friendly summaries of the most important concepts of protected area topics, available in languages and packaged into software that allows the user to explore each topic in detail in a very interactive way. These self-paced tutorial modules are made freely and publicly available on the web. Since their availability for the last six months more than 1,888 people across the world have used them. The participants found the modules very useful especially when a dedicated mentor for each course facilitated discussions and responded to questions. At the end of quarter 3 of 2011, the PoWPA program had an 84% increase in enrollments from quarter 2 (Fig 1). The current learner satisfaction score average is 4.5 out of 5 and the module completion rate is 21%.

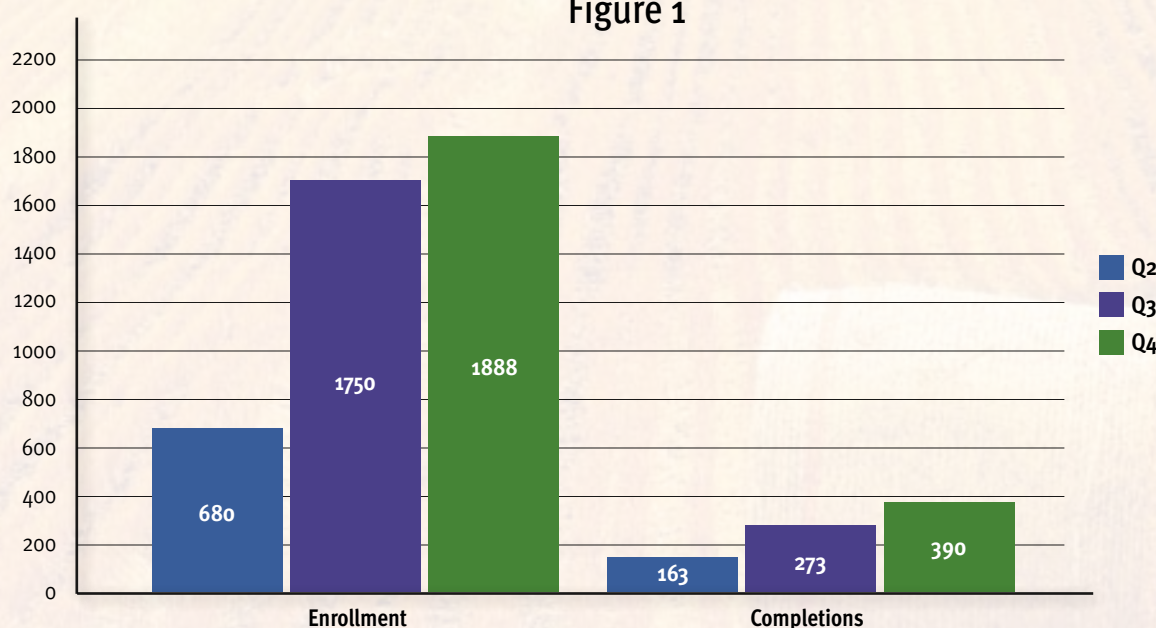
The Convention on Biological Diversity's LifeWeb initiative strengthens financing for protected areas to conserve biodiversity, secure livelihoods and address climate change, through implementation of the PoWPA. LifeWeb provides a user-friendly clearing house that facilitates funding matches, arranges counterpart funding, and recognizes donor support.

Achievements of LifeWeb in 2011 include:

- ▶ LifeWeb received 11 Expressions of Interest from 16 countries representing nationally endorsed needs for implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas totalling US\$73
- ▶ LifeWeb helped facilitate 10 matches from six separate donors agencies, five of which are new donors to LifeWeb, totalling over US\$20 million
- ▶ LifeWeb held three separate financing roundtable meetings, with participation of over 50 different funding organizations and stakeholders, in Mexico, Micronesia, and West Africa that have help strengthened national commitments, clarify priorities and coordinate funding among donors, as well as raise over US\$15 million for activities consistent with the priorities expressed in the Expressions of Interest submitted.

For more information, please visit [www.cbd.int/lifeweb](http://www.cbd.int/lifeweb).

Figure 1



Registrations for the CBD PoWPA online learning modules over the last 3 quarters of 2011. For information, please visit [www.cbd.int/protected](http://www.cbd.int/protected).

## Consortium of Scientific Partners grows to 20 members

**T**he Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP) grew to 20 members in 2011, with the addition of four new members: the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at a meeting of the Consortium held in Incheon City, Korea in May 2011, becoming the first African partner to join the Consortium; France's Agropolis International, which gathers skills and expertise in the fields of agriculture, food, biodiversity and environment, with a focus on the development of Mediterranean and tropical regions, signed an MoU in August; and, in November, the CBD signed an MoU with two internationally-renowned institutions: The Botanic Gardens of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität of Bonn and the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute of Colombia.

The purpose of the MoU is to leverage the expertise and experience of these institutions in order to implement education and training activities to support developing countries that are building scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity.

The Consortium of Scientific Partners was born in Curitiba, Brazil, when in 2006 an MoU was signed between the Convention Secretariat and six leading scientific institutions: the Royal Botanic

Gardens, Kew, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

As part of their commitment to the MoU, the CSP carried out a training seminar on 5 November 2011 for delegates participating in both the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and SBSTTA 15. The seminar, hosted by Espace pour la vie Montréal and attended by some 50 delegates from around the world, comprised an all-day workshop on strengthening the role of science in revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The seminar, facilitated by several members of the Consortium, including the Smithsonian Institute, The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, The Natural History Museum of France, Espace pour la vie Montréal, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh and the Humboldt Institute of Colombia, included interactive activities, presentations by CSP members, and a guided tour of the Montreal Insectarium.

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### FACT

Primary forests account for 36% of forest area.

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# Gender and Biodiversity

## *Mainstreaming gender*

**A**t the tenth Conference of the Parties, held in Nagoya in October 2010, the COP through its decision X/19 emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in all programmes of work under the Convention in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Through its decision X/2, the COP adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and urged Parties to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan as a flexible framework, and to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan. In addition, decision X/2 also requests Parties to mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the Convention, to promote gender equality and to mainstream gender considerations in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

As part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and that of the Aichi Targets, the Convention has thus far held a series of eight regional and sub-regional

workshops on the revision of the NBSAPs. Gender mainstreaming is one of the themes covered at the workshops and has been received positively. Through these workshops a network of expertise is being created on gender and biodiversity for the Convention.

### **Coordination among the conventions**

From 11 to 12 March 2011 in San Jose, Costa Rica, the first workshop on the development of a coordinated framework on gender mainstreaming of the three Rio Conventions (CBD, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was held. Hosted by the Office of the IUCN Global Senior Gender Adviser, financial support for the workshop was provided by the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS – people unlimited: [www.hivos.nl](http://www.hivos.nl)), a development organization based in The Hague, Netherlands.

The workshop convened representatives from the secretariats of the CBD, the UNCCD, the UNFCCC and the GEF, as well as other representatives from major stakeholders. The workshop elaborated a vision for the joint gender efforts amongst the three Rio Conventions and the GEF, a set of principles to guide concrete actions and a roadmap outlining possible joint activities. The Joint Liaison Group of the conventions, at its eleventh meeting in April 2011, endorsed the Joint Coordination Group on Gender. The vision is, “To lift, by 2020, gender as a cross cutting priority and to ensure that it is integrated into thematic issues across the Rio Conventions and the GEF, to achieve the long-term objectives of these conventions.”

In June 2011, Finland renewed its support for the Convention’s gender mainstreaming efforts by contributing EUR250 000 to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund as support to the implementation of the CBD Gender Plan of Action and the related activities with regard to gender mainstreaming in the three Rio Conventions and the GEF.

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#### **FACT**

Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.

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## Global partners establish Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force

### *Active engagement of all stakeholders critical*

**H**ighlighting that achievement of the Aichi Targets requires the active engagement of all stakeholders without exception, twenty-seven of the largest international agencies, organizations and environmental conventions signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2011 for the implementation and achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The memorandum, signed at the margins of the high-level event on desertification of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the participation of Tatsushi Terada, Vice Minister for Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Japan, representing the COP 10 President, creates a task force to provide a platform for agencies to coordinate their activities in support of the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The Aichi Biodiversity Task Force is expected to set the stage for better coordination and communication between organizations as they support implementation of the Strategic Plan at global and national levels during the 2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, which runs concurrently with the period of the Strategic Plan.

To promote synergies and avoid duplication, participants unanimously appointed the co-chairs of the seventeenth session of the Environment Management Group, Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Rebeca Grynspan, Associate Administrator

of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, Monique Barbut, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was unanimously appointed goodwill ambassador of the task force.

Signatories include: the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Bioversity International, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Financing organizations include the GEF. Multilateral environmental agreements that have signed include the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Non-governmental organizations include the Alliance for Zero Extinction, BirdLife International, Conservation International, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, WWF International, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.



## Article 8(j) – Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

### *Setting the agenda for 2020*

**A**t its seventh meeting, held in Montreal 31 October-4 November, the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions effectively set an agenda for the next decade leading up to 2020, with a new major component of work on Article 10(c) – customary sustainable use of biological diversity.

The Working Group facilitated the first in-depth dialogue on “Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas”, as an aid to implementing Article 8(j) and related provision, including Article 10(c) as a cross-cutting issue, into the various thematic programmes of work, starting with protected areas.

The Working Group also considered task 7 (guidelines for equitable benefit sharing, PIC and advancement of obligations of both countries of original and user countries regarding TK), task 10 (development of standards and guidelines for the reporting and prevention of unlawful appropriation of TK) and task 12 (guidelines for implementation of Article 8(j) at the national level), of the programme of work, and agreed to take these forward through three expert studies to be considered at the eighth meeting of the Working Group.

With respect to task 15 on repatriation of traditional knowledge and associated cultural property, the Working Group recommended the development of “best-practice guidelines that would facilitate enhancement of the existing repatriation of indigenous and traditional knowledge relevant to the

conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity” by adopting the terms of reference.

The Working Group also advanced work on operationalizing the three adopted indicators for traditional knowledge (traditional languages, land tenure and traditional occupations), as well as considered a process to identify possible indicators for Article 10(c) (customary sustainable use).

The Working Group also considered sui generis systems for the protection of TK and decided to consider the issue more fully in the future, to involve sui generis systems to include protection, preservation, transmission and/or promotion. The Working Group also considered a number of recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and noted them, and requested that the Secretariat organize a capacity-building workshop on the margins of the next session of the UNPFII in May 2012.

Finally the Working Group considered various mechanisms for ILC participation in meetings held under the Convention including the operations of the Voluntary Fund for the participation of ILCs in meetings held under the Convention, as well as communication mechanisms including the Article 8(j) webpages and the traditional knowledge information portal. In considering these, the Working Group also adopted a number of draft decisions targeted at local communities, to assist in their participation in Convention processes.

# Forest Biodiversity

## *Significant progress on several fronts*

This year forests were particularly high on the political agenda as the world celebrated the International Year of Forests. Governments and civil society everywhere organized activities and events to raise public awareness, showcase good practices and inspire further action for preserving the world's forests. As a contribution to the International Year of Forests, the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May, was forest biodiversity.

During the year significant progress was made on several substantive topics, most prominently the issues of tackling the impacts of unsustainable and illegal trade in bushmeat and establishing safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities in the context of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+).

With regards to bushmeat, the CBD Secretariat responded to requests by COPs 9 and 10 and convened a joint meeting of the CBD Bushmeat Liaison Group and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group, held in Kenya in June. With financial support from the European Commission, the meeting was organized, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, CIFOR, FAO, COMIFAC, CMS, CIC, IUCN, UNEP-GRASP, and TRAFFIC. The meeting resulted in revised recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group, as well as recommendations for small-scale alternatives to unsustainable bushmeat harvesting, for consideration at the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 15).

Important progress was also made on relevant biodiversity safeguards for REDD+. COP 10 had invited CBD Parties and other governments to enhance the benefits for, and avoid negative impacts on, biodiversity from REDD+. The COP had also requested the Executive Secretary to contribute to capacity-building on REDD+ and to develop advice on relevant biodiversity safeguards, on possible indicators to assess

the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the CBD, and on potential mechanisms to monitor impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity.

In response to these requests, the CBD Secretariat organized a series of regional consultations and capacity-building workshops, held in Singapore, Ecuador, and South Africa. The three regional workshops built on the results of a global expert workshop on biodiversity benefits from REDD+, held in Kenya in 2010. Taken together, the four workshops were attended by representatives from 63 Parties and 55 international organizations, NGOs, private sector institutions and indigenous and local communities. Funding for the workshops was provided by the governments of Germany, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as the UN-REDD Programme, GIZ and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

The CBD Secretariat submitted the full results of the workshop series to the UNFCCC Secretariat in response to the UNFCCC's request for submissions on methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+. The CBD will also discuss possible indicators for REDD+ impacts on biodiversity at SBSTTA 16 and advice on REDD+ biodiversity safeguards will be discussed at COP 11, in Hyderabad, India.

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### FACT

Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.

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“Significant progress was made on several substantive topics, including tackling the impacts of unsustainable and illegal trade in bushmeat and establishing safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities.”

With regards to both the bushmeat and REDD+ issues, the CBD Secretariat published issues in its Technical Series (No. 60 on ‘Livelihood Alternatives for the Unsustainable Use of Bushmeat’ and No. 59 on ‘REDD-plus and Biodiversity’). The two publications are available at: [www.cbd.int/ts](http://www.cbd.int/ts).

During the year, the CBD Secretariat also provided support to its partners by collaborating on projects and international events. In this context, the Secretariat co-organized, in collaboration with the International Model Forest Network Secretariat, a symposium on ecosystem and landscape-level approaches to sustainability, held in Burgos, Spain, in March. The results of the symposium were used for reporting to SBSTTA 15 on landscape-level improvements to the sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture and forestry.

The CBD Secretariat also participated in the Summit of Three Rainforest Basins, organized by the Government of the Republic of Congo, in Brazzaville, in May. Lastly, the Secretariat co-organized, in collaboration with the Government of Germany and IUCN,

the conference Bonn Challenge on forests, climate change and biodiversity, held in Bonn, Germany, in September. As a result of the conference, partners attending the “Bonn Challenge” announced the ambition to facilitate the restoration of at least 150 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2020.

Finally, the CBD Secretariat continued to collaborate closely with the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) on a joint initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest biodiversity. The initiative supports the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries through specific country projects related to capacity-building, technical support and guidance. Implementation of the initiative is led by ITTO, in close consultation with the CBD Secretariat and the Government of Japan.

The initiative prioritizes activities related to relevant goals identified in the CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. This year the third successful project emerged from the initiative. It will be funded by the Government of Japan and other donors and focus on supporting biodiversity conservation in tropical production forests and capacity-building for sustainable forest management in the eight member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

# Biodiversity for Development

## *Integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development*

**B**iodiversity, mostly due to the ecosystem services it underpins, has garnered new recognition for its role in economic development, particularly for marginal populations and the poor.

Decision X-6 adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in Nagoya was the first decision directly concerning biodiversity for poverty eradication and development. With this decision, the Biodiversity for Development (BforD) Initiative launched by the governments of Germany and France, and others, in 2008, became a program highly integrated with other issues, such as the revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), mainstreaming, gender equity, human health, cities and local governments.

2011 was devoted mainly to continue the work started by the BforD Initiative, and to integrate the concerns of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. With the support of Germany, Japan and France, a major focus was on integrating poverty eradication and development dimension into the workshops on NBSAP revision.

The new challenges of biodiversity for poverty eradication and development will include some recurrent crises (food and nutrition, energy, water, land, etc.) as well as more irreversible changes (climate and ocean, global urbanization, permanent pollution, soil destruction, species erosion, etc.). The current economy does not always internalise the real costs of increased consumption growth and less sustainable factors of production, and does not allow for the easy integration of ecosystem services into economic and development processes.

To this end, the Secretariat is continuing to develop, improve and disseminate a tool box to share experiences on good practices in different sectors. After the sectors of tourism, pastoralism, drinking water, forestry, and the ecosystem goods and services in development planning launched in 2010, we are working on human health, food-security, gender equity, fisheries, mining, National Accounting Systems.

In addition, the Secretariat is starting an initiative

to better consider the Aichi Targets under the United Nations Development Group via the United Nations Development Assistance Framework at different levels. This initiative, titled Healthy Planet-Healthy People, was presented to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in South Korea in October 2011.

The meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development in Dehradun, India, in December 2011, should provide the fundament for the CBD for a medium/long term strategy for the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development to fulfill the targets in coordination with other relevant partners, initiatives and policies taking into account the Rio +20 summit and the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.

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### FACT

Many farming, silvopastoral, hunter-gatherer and other land-based livelihoods are linked with forests and forest health.

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“For too long, our natural capital has been seen as an endless reserve, instead of the limited and fragile resource we now know it to be. Fortunately, it is not too late to stem the tide. The twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets included in the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity are ambitious but realistic. But achieving them will require greater engagement by all relevant actors and partners.”

—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
message on the launch of the United Nations  
Decade on Biodiversity

“Biodiversity is not just an abstract concept in the halls of science, it is the living underpinning of our lives and we are all intimately and directly connected to the services and the resources that biodiversity supplies us in our lives. We are reliant on the web of biodiversity for our lives and we have to tell that story better to people so that they understand it and prioritize the protection of it.”

—Edward Norton, United Nations  
Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity

# United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

**T**he United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2011 to 2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) in its Resolution 65/161. The Decade coincides with the duration of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting held in Nagoya, Japan. This global Strategic Plan contains ambitious but realistic targets to help achieve the three objectives of the Convention and to achieve the vision of living in harmony with nature, into the future. In so doing the strategic plan will support sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.

Financial support for activities undertaken by the Secretariat was greatly supported by the Government of Japan. Other countries and organizations have contributed resources to the events as well.

The official slogan of the decade “Living in Harmony with Nature” reminds us of the historic outcomes of the Nagoya Summit and lays out the vision and mission of the Global Strategy for Biodiversity and its Biodiversity Targets. The Logo has been translated into all six official UN languages and Parties have been encouraged to translate it to their local languages.

## Reaching out

To ensure that the UN Decade is as visible and viable as possible, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has prepared a number of outreach activities:

**Website:** A website dedicated to the celebrations of the UN Decade on Biodiversity was created

at: [www.cbd.int/2011-2020](http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020). The website contains materials to mark and celebrate the decade, as well as a map that shows events and activities held around the world.

**Strategy:** The CBD Secretariat prepared a Draft Strategy for the celebration of the UN Decade to be used by all Parties and relevant stakeholders as a tool to help promote the Decade. The document has been translated in the official United Nations languages and is available at [www.cbd.int/2011-2020/](http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/).

**UNDB Factsheets:** providing important information on the Programmes of Work of the Convention and their contribution to the strategic plan are available at [www.cbd.int/2011-2020/learn/factsheets.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/learn/factsheets.shtml)

**UNDB Kiosk:** The Secretariat produced a promotional kiosk for the UN Decade to be used during all international meetings as a means to help raise awareness. Copies of the kiosk have been sent to different organizations to be put on display at their headquarters.

**Social Media Initiatives:** The UN Decade media efforts are about sharing stories of successes and hopes for preserving biodiversity. It is also about giving the community of biodiversity practitioners a place to exchange ideas and grow. To assist in this, and understanding the power of social media, a Facebook page was created for the decade ([www.facebook.com/UNBiobiversity](http://www.facebook.com/UNBiobiversity)). This was further supported by a Twitter feed ([www.twitter.com/UNBiobiversity](http://www.twitter.com/UNBiobiversity)) and a Youtube channel ([www.youtube.com/UNBiobiversity](http://www.youtube.com/UNBiobiversity)). So far, the Facebook page has gathered over 3,000 members who regularly post on the wall and provide comments. They exchange

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## FACT

The annual value of wood removed from forests is estimated to be more than \$100 billion.

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An International Symposium in Commemoration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity was held in the Republic of Korea in May.



India hosted the launch of the UN Decade for the Asia and Pacific region in May, and held a national stakeholder consultative meeting that brought together representatives of civil society, the scientific community, UN agencies and other donors, as well as representatives of the business community.



A workshop on the UN Decade was held in Hanoi in March.

important websites, tell others about their biodiversity activities and ask for or provide inspiring stories about their work with the natural world.

### Interagency task force established

Twenty-seven of the largest international agencies, organizations and environmental conventions signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2011 for the implementation and achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The task force highlights that achievement of the Aichi Targets requires the active engagement of all stakeholders without exception. The first meeting of Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force will be held in October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, in conjunction with the high-level segment of eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. For more on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force see Box on page 19.

The first meeting of the steering committee of the 2012 MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was held in Tokyo on 20 December 2011, under the chairmanship of the Chairman, Mr. Takuya Okada, of the AEON Environmental Foundation. From left to right: CBD ES, Mr. Okada, Prof. Shiro Wakui, Tokyo City University, and a member of the steering committee, and Mr. Daizaburo Kuroda, Senior Councillor, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and advisor to the steering committee.



### 2012 MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

In December, under the leadership of its Chairman, Takuya Okada, the AEON Environmental Foundation, in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, established the 2012 MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity. The Prize will be a key instrument at the service of the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020. At the margins of the Nagoya biodiversity summit in October 2010, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the AEON Environmental Foundation and the SCBD with a view of promoting public awareness and engaging youth and children in the context of The Green Wave initiative as well as the celebration of the UNDB.

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was established in 2010 at the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the AEON Environmental Foundation, which coincided with the historical celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. The MIDORI Prize honours three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to conservation and sustainable use at local and global levels, and who have developmentally influenced various biodiversity-related efforts, as well as raising awareness about biodiversity. Each of the three recipients will receive US\$ 100,000.

The first meeting of the steering committee of the 2012 MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was held in Tokyo on 20 December under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation and the participation of the CBD Executive Secretary. The steering committee agreed to organize the award ceremony in conjunction with the high level segment of COP 11, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012. It will be followed by a MIDORI Prize Forum to be held in Tokyo with the participation of



The UN Decade on Biodiversity was launched in South-East Asia in May by the President of the Philippines, Benigno S. Aquino III, who also issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring a National Decade.

UNESCO joined with the CBD Secretariat to launch UNDB at its headquarters in Paris. The event took place in conjunction with the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference and coincided with the launch of the UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative.

the three winners. The winners will be announced in September 2012 at multiple press conferences, tentatively scheduled for Tokyo, Montreal and New York.

### Global launch of the UNDB

Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, in **Japan** provided the setting for the global launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity on 17 December 2011. Organised by the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the event was intended to both promote public awareness of the UNDB, and also to support developing countries implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The event, made possible due to the financial support of the Government of Japan through its Japan Fund, included the participation of United Nations agencies, Parties to the CBD, and representatives of all levels of government in Japan.

### Regional Launches

Around the world, United Nations agencies, governments and stakeholders organised events to mark the beginning of the decade. Here are some highlights:

At the 8th International Convention on Environment and Development, held in Havana from 4 to 8 July, **Cuba** launched the UN Decade in Caribbean countries. The event featured the participation of 950 delegates representing 35 countries, and was attended by the Vice President of Cuba, together with the Cuban Ministers of Environment and Education. The ceremony was also attended by the ministers of environment from Angola, Dominican

Republic and Sri Lanka as well as Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The launch of the celebration in Havana also coincided with the celebration of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification in the region.

A celebration of the UN Decade was held in **Ecuador** on the margins of the Regional Workshop on the updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for South America on 13-15 July.

In **India**, the UN Decade was celebrated on the margins of the national stakeholder consultative meeting which brought together the representatives of civil society, the scientific community, UN agencies and other donors as well as the representatives of the business community. The event was presided over by Mr Jairam Ramesh the Minister of Environment at the time. The Vice-Minister of Environment, Japan, representing the COP 10 Presidency, Ministers of Environment from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan besides Ambassadors / High Commissioners of Delhi-based Missions also attended the event.

An African regional launch for the UN Decade and an observance for the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification were held on 22 July in Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia**, at the offices of the Economic Commission for Africa. Over 200 ambassadors, diplomats, UN agencies and other international organizations and dignitaries from the host countries, gathered to celebrate biodiversity and join efforts to halt land degradation. Their presence demonstrated the synergy that exists between the biodiversity and the land-degradation agendas, and the opportunities to simultaneously tackle both environmental challenges.

### FACT

Traditional forest-related knowledge accumulated over thousands of years is deeply linked with the cultures of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples.



The global launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity took place in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, on 17 December.



Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Public Information, delivered the message of Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General called “on all the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to all the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as all members of the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society groups and individual citizens and consumers worldwide, to rally to the call of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.”



Katsuhiko Yokomitsu, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan, who spoke on behalf of COP10 President, Goshi Hosono, Minister of Environment, Japan, said: “Given the current status of biodiversity on Earth, it is incumbent upon us to endeavor continually and unfailingly to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

In the **Dominican Republic**, by presidential decree, a national decade on biodiversity was declared in August. The Decade will be mainstreamed into activities throughout government.

The President of the **Philippines**, Benigno S Aquino III, launched the UN Decade for Southeast Asia and issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring a National Decade. The event took place on 30 May at the Malacanang Palace with the participation of the diplomatic corps from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam; high-level government officials; and representatives of media, conservation organizations and the business community. In support of the UN Decade, President Aquino’s proclamation of 2011-2020 as the National Decade on Biodiversity in the Philippines recognized the UN celebration as an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness of the values of biodiversity and promote actions at the national, regional and local levels.

A celebration of the UN Decade co-hosted by the Government of Fiji, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and the CBD Secretariat, was held on the margins of the Regional Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans held in Nadi, 3 to 7 October.

The UN Decade was celebrated on the margins of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification COP 10 in Changwon, **Republic of Korea**, as addressing challenges to biodiversity and productive land issues often have common solutions that can be promoted together to improve people’s lives and the environment. The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, also hosted a high-level discussion on the synergetic and coherent implementation of the UN Decades on Biodiversity and on Deserts and the Fight against Desertification.

On the margins of the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Government of **Switzerland**, in partnership with the COP 10 Japanese Presidency, hosted the official launch of the UN Decade for Europe with the participation of the secretariats of CITES, CBD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in November

became the first international organization to launch the UNDB. The event took place in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the UNESCO General Conference and coincided with the launch of the UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative aimed at contributing to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Over 80 participants attended the ceremony presided over by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, as well as the Deputy Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO, Minister Mr. Tsutomu Koizumi; Mr Jean-Pierre Thebault, the Ambassador for the Environment of France represented Ms Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing of France, as well as Ms Hélène Mandroux, the Mayor of Montpellier, and Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

### Stakeholder commitment

Throughout 2011 the UN Decade inspired a number of commitments by stakeholders and other organizations. Here are a few examples:

To symbolize its passion for living life in harmony with nature and to help mainstream biodiversity, **Japan Airlines (JAL)** added the UN Decade logo in October 2011 to its JAL Eco Jet “Nature”, a Boeing 777-200 scheduled to fly domestic routes, to convey the importance of protecting Japan’s natural beauty through various environmental activities. The airline is also using its Eco Jet to promote the nature-friendly rebuilding of Tohoku, an area rich in nature, devastated by the 11 March earthquake, by supporting the Ministry of Environment’s “Sanriku Fukko (recovery) National Park” concept and the “Tohoku Cotton Project” for rebuilding agriculture in the affected area.

The **World Association of Zoos**, at its annual conference and in a unanimous resolution, formally endorsed the UN Decade and decided to develop a framework to guide the participation of zoos and aquariums in the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Attendees to the 66th annual conference, hosted by the Prague Zoo, discussed the role of zoos and aquariums in achieving the conservation and awareness-raising targets of the Strategic

Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The **Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that seeks to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. With this MOU, UEBT and the CBD Secretariat will work together on key issues of the strategic plan, particularly on increasing public awareness of biodiversity, promoting the engagement of the business community in biodiversity protection and putting in practice the equitable sharing of benefits that result from biodiversity use. The MOU was signed by the CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghla and UEBT’s Executive Director, Rik Kutsch Lojenga, at a signing ceremony held in Geneva, Switzerland on 18 August.

In Tokyo, the **Institute of Advanced Studies of the United Nations University** launched a Master of Science (MSc) programme in Environmental Governance which includes a specialization in Biodiversity.

In the **United Kingdom** a website was launched representing the UK Friends of the UN Decade. The ‘Friends’ are individuals and organizations throughout the UK who support the Decade on Biodiversity and are committed to addressing biodiversity loss across the planet. The Friends of the Decade on Biodiversity will promote biodiversity activities throughout the UK from 2011-2020. The aim is to facilitate networking and collaboration to encourage engaging the public about the importance of biodiversity to our wellbeing. The secretariat is based at the Natural History Museum.

The third meeting of the COP 10 Bureau was held in October 2011 at the CBD Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, Advisor to the Minister of the Environment Japan, representing the COP 10 President.



### FACT

For the rural poor, access to food, fuel, water and medicine is vital; forest products often help meet these basic subsistence needs.

# Stakeholder involvement and engagement

## Business and Biodiversity

### Meetings and Workshops

A series of meetings and workshops were held during 2011 on implementing the COP 10 decision on Business Engagement. A well-attended Brazilian business and biodiversity workshop, co-hosted by the LIFE Institute, was held in Rio de Janeiro for two days in August. The official launch of the Life Certification took place at the end of the second day. Two further workshops were held in South Africa in September, co-hosted with the National Business Institute (NBI). In November, the Sustainability Solutions Conference in New Delhi took place, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners. Participants used the occasion to share knowledge on building sustainable enterprises, discuss the barriers in the implementation processes

of COP decisions, and engage in a dialogue for an international policy framework to deal with new challenges. In addition, discussions on how to efficiently include business engagement in decisions at COP 11 in Hyderabad, India, took place, and plans were made to this end.

In late November, the Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium (GBOB) took place for the second year in a row, facilitating dialogue between all stakeholders as part of the preparation to COP 11. In addition, other workshops on business engagement were organized throughout the year in Korea, Canada and the United Kingdom. In most cases, the idea of creating National Business and Biodiversity initiatives (highlighted in Decision X/21/3a) was discussed. Finally, the first meeting of the Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity took place

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#### FACT

The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests.

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in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting focused on the role of these national initiatives, examined progress on the business decision since COP 10, and looked forward to COP 11.

### **Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Website**

The Secretariat has compiled an extensive list of the various tools and mechanisms (including guidance documents) as well as case studies and made it available through the recently developed Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Website. The website has been enhanced with more user-friendly search tools and extended features (including a planned interactive portal). The site can be found at: [www.cbd.int/business](http://www.cbd.int/business).

### **Evaluation of Tools and Mechanisms**

The Secretariat has been engaged with partners in efforts to evaluate the effectiveness and use of the various tools and mechanisms. A survey of the private sector regarding their use of tools and mechanisms was conducted and provided preliminary assessments of commonly used tools and mechanisms

in terms of their effectiveness in biodiversity conservation and cost-effectiveness for companies. In addition, it identified potential gaps in terms of what kinds of companies and which sectors were less involved in biodiversity-related activities. UNEP-WCMC also undertook a literature review study on what the various standards and certification schemes available assess and how they address biodiversity protection. This is intended to help companies determine which standards are best suited to their needs. This research was published in the CBD technical series number 63 “Review of the Biodiversity Requirements of Standards and Certification Schemes”.

### **Newsletter**

Two new editions of the *Business.2020* newsletter were issued. The first focused on the outcomes of COP10 and the road ahead, the second issue had a special focus on forests and efforts to conserve forest ecosystems. The newsletters can be found at: [www.cbd.int/business/newsletters](http://www.cbd.int/business/newsletters).

A well-attended Brazilian business and biodiversity workshop, co-hosted by the LIFE Institute, was held in Rio de Janeiro in August.



## Cities and Biodiversity

In 2011, the road to sub-national and local implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as defined by the Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity 2011-2020, began in Montpellier, France.

The First Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities on Biodiversity, with the mandate to “design and organize together the concrete road map for the implementation of the plan of action before COP 11 and beyond”, held in Montpellier from 17-19 January 2011, allowed participants to familiarize themselves with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Plan of Action on

Cities, as well as on preparations towards the second summit on local authorities and biodiversity to be held in conjunction with the high-level segment of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in India in October 2012, which will also provide an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity (based on Global Biodiversity Outlook 3).

More than 12 projects were started at the meeting, which was attended by 38 participants representing over 2,100 cities and regions worldwide, as well as the governments of France, Brazil, Sweden, Portugal, Singapore and South Africa, international agencies and other partner institutions.

Over the course of the year, the province of

"The Stockholm University, through the Stockholm Resilience Centre, and the CBD Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the preparation of the first edition of the Global City and Biodiversity Outlook, which will provide an assessment on the links between urbanization and biodiversity, and is expected to be a major tool for monitoring implementation of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity."

Quebec, Canada, played host to several important meetings on local and sub-national implementation of the CBD. The General Assembly of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) in Quebec City, 29-31 August 2011 resulted in the launch of a specific Working Group on Biodiversity, led by Brazil's Paraná State and the French region of Rhône-Alpes, together with several other members. The nrg4SD agreed to support the organization of a meeting of regional governments parallel to COP 11 and the Hyderabad City Summit. The nrg4SD has, since 2010, taken part in the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity and is collaborating with the Secretariat and its partners in order to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action and the establishment of an Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity. In doing so, nrg4SD is also working with the members of the global partnership, in particular with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, a key partner for the Convention with regards to the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Following this meeting, the city of Montreal hosted the 2011 Ecocity World Summit, from 22-26 August 2011, where hundreds of cities exchanged best practices in sustainable urbanization and consumption, green design and infrastructure. With regards to biodiversity, Environment Canada, ICLEI Canada and the CBD Secretariat collaborated on the "Liveable Cities Forum: Designing Biodiversity Friendly Communities", also held in Montreal, 21-22 August 2011, which explored ways to apply biodiversity conservation measures in local practices.

Results from the Montpellier meeting contributed to the Second Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action, which also served as the meeting of the Advisory Committee of Cities and the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity, held in Bonn, Germany, on 5-6 September 2011. Representatives of the Advisory Committee on Cities and of the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity discussed opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate on a range of activities. These included: implementation of the Plan of Action; the development of monitoring and assessment tools for the Plan –including the City Biodiversity Outlook 1 (CBO 1), City Biodiversity



Hélène Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier, center, and other participants to the First Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action, held in Montpellier, France, 17-19 January.



Opening plenary of the Liveable Cities Forum, August, Montreal, Canada. Mr Alan de Sousa, Borough Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee, City of Montreal; Hon. Pierre Arcand, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Province of Québec; Jean Langlais, Director of the Biosphère, Environment Canada; Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary.



Planting a Rowan tree at a ceremony during the Second Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Biodiversity, held in Bonn, Germany, September. From left to right: Professor Maximilian Weigend, Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch, Mayor James Nxumalo, Commissioner Krishna Babu, Professor Beate Jessel, and Ahmed Djoghlaif

Index (CBI) or Singapore Index, the TEEB Study and the TEEB Manual for Cities; road map and preparations towards the second summit on local authorities and biodiversity to be held in conjunction with the COP 11 high-level segment in India in October 2012; and, outreach and communication, education and public awareness opportunities and examples, as well as decentralized cooperation. At this meeting, Stockholm University, through the Stockholm Resilience Centre, and the CBD Secretariat, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the preparation of the first edition of the Global City and Biodiversity Outlook. The City and Biodiversity Outlook will provide an assessment on the links between urbanization and biodiversity, and it will be a major tool to monitor the implementation of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity.

Throughout the year, dozens of cities tested the application of the Singapore Index. The CBD Secretariat and the Government of Singapore, represented by its National Parks Board (NParks) hosted the Third Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index, on 11 - 12 October 2011 in Singapore. The workshop was followed on 13 October by a meeting on the City Biodiversity Outlook 1. The Expert workshop allowed participants to report on their experiences in using the Index and to work together on the finalisation of the tool. The CBO I meeting focused on the production plan and content development, as well as on the 10 key messages and on how to integrate the Singapore Index in the CBO 1 – synthesis. The third workshop built on the framework of the CBI formulated by participants to the First Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index (February 2009) and on results obtained at the Second Expert Workshop (July 2010). Based on the results of discussions held at the Second Expert Workshop, the revised version of the CBI User's Manual was developed. The manual will be further revised on the basis of results from the third meeting.

Closing the year, the city of Lisbon, with the support of its energy agency and the national Institute for Nature Protection and Biodiversity, held a meeting on urban biodiversity on 24 November 2011, which included discussions on the establishment of a Lusophone network of cities on biodiversity.

## *The Green Wave*



*The Green Wave* is a project to raise awareness and educate young people – tomorrow's leaders and citizens – on biodiversity and on actions to preserve life on Earth. *The Green Wave* encourages participants to engage in local action, build friendships with other participants around the world, work in local and international partnerships and learn about global issues affecting biodiversity. *The Green Wave* holds a celebration annually on 22 May – the International Day for Biological Diversity. In participating schools and groups, children and youth plant or take care of a tree at 10 a.m. local time, creating a "green wave" around the world. Participants upload photos and text to *The Green Wave* website to share their tree-planting stories with others. An interactive map goes live in the evening at 20:20 local time, creating a second, virtual, "green wave". For more information: [greenwave.cbd.int](http://greenwave.cbd.int)



Students from Grades 5 and 6 planted indigenous trees in Wolseley, Western Cape, South Africa.

## *The Green Wave in 2011*

### *Involving children and young people in the implementation of the CBD*

**T**he 2011 *Green Wave* campaign reached out to over 400 groups of children and youth from over 45 countries who learned and took action to protect biodiversity by planting or caring for trees. The 2011 Wave was very special. It celebrated the importance of trees in our lives which echoed the theme of this year's International Day for Biological Diversity: Forest Biodiversity. Several of the participating groups celebrated the beauty and bounty of nature and particularly of forests on this special day by organizing educational activities related to trees and forest ecosystems in schools, communities and families.

Examples of creative activities included: Mangrove planting on the shore of Tagaqa Village, Fiji; Environmental Workshop and Tree Planting in Chum Kiri Primary School, Kampong Cham, Cambodia, where children can too rarely explore their neighbouring forests because of dangers associated to landmines; Planting of Spruce trees by students of the Nature Association in Oblęgorek, Kielce, Poland; Planting of Arbuda vinashini tree species, known by traditional healers as 'Destroyer of Cancer' by the Kanara Institute of Development Studies Trust, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India; Planting of Ginisapu (Red Gom) trees to act as wind break in 'this very windy place', Wangiyakumbura School, Sri Lanka; and in Dunedin, New Zealand, participants planted their trees 'for peace'.

The Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) supported events in many countries and enabled about 14,000 people, at 105 sites in 13 countries

around the world to take part in The 2011 *Green Wave*. Also, groups from Japan, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam Puerto Rico and Canada were very active this year.

To help learning, participation and action on biodiversity, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the CBD Secretariat published the Biodiversity Challenge Badge, a set of educational resources to introduce biodiversity concepts and stimulate exploration through action-based learning. The booklet is available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/groups/youth/greenwave/biodiversity-challenge-badge-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/groups/youth/greenwave/biodiversity-challenge-badge-en.pdf).

The 2011 *Green Wave* celebration was the first of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity that aims at raising awareness on biodiversity and supporting the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. *The Green Wave* contributes to the first Goal of the Strategic Plan: 'By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably'.

Congratulations to all 2011 *Green Wave* participants! Your actions contributed to the involvement of children and young people in the implementation of the CBD. These actions provide hope for the future that tomorrow leaders will be better able to ensure that human beings live in harmony with nature.

We invite you to join the movement and get ready for the 2012 *Green Wave*, which will celebrate the theme of the 2012 International Day for Biological Diversity: coastal and marine biodiversity.



Participants from Tagaqa Village, Fiji, plant mangrove trees to protect their village



An environmental workshop and tree planting activity organized by the Children Forest Program was held in Chum Kiri Primary School in Tbong Khmon District, Kampong Chan, Cambodia.



Representatives from the diplomatic corps and relevant organizations in Montreal attended the IDB celebrations, as well as the tree planting at the Biosphère, as a contribution to *The Green Wave*.



Canadian biologist, filmmaker and explorer, Jean Lemire, with students from the St-Laurent Academy in Ottawa, during the tree planting at the Montreal Biosphère to mark the international Day for Biological Diversity.

# International Day for Biological Diversity Celebrations 2011

*Highlighting the need for urgent action  
and stakeholder participation*

**W**ith 2011 being the International Year of Forests, this year's International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was commemorated under the theme of forest biodiversity. Forests are one of the most biologically-rich terrestrial systems and provide countless of far-reaching benefits. They catch and store water, stabilize soils, harbor biodiversity and make critical contributions to regulating greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Forests also provide livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people worldwide, generate profits for international businesses, and play important economic, social, and cultural roles in the lives of many indigenous communities. Therefore, forests and forest biodiversity are innately linked to ecosystem and human well-being. Yet, despite all this, forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. This year's International Day for Biological Diversity was devoted to highlighting the need for urgent action.

## FACT

Forests cover 31% of total land area.

Proclaimed by the United Nations to be celebrated every 22 May, the IDB provides Parties with the opportunity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity-related issues, as well as on the activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## Celebrations around the world

At least 41 countries held celebrations for the 2011 International Day for Biological Diversity. In Montreal, the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, some 150 people gathered to mark the day at the Biosphere environmental museum and celebrate forests worldwide. In a symbolic gesture for living in harmony with nature, the ceremony included students and other participants planting two sugar-maple trees, native to Canada, on the grounds of the Biosphere as a contribution to the International Year of Forests and to *The Green Wave* campaign.

Following is a random sampling of activities undertaken by Parties:

- ▶ In **Armenia**, the NGO Young Biologists Association, with assistance from Life Colors, Yerevan and Hrazdan Aarhus Centers and Hrazdan mayor's office, organized a clean-up day in the Hrazdan Forest near the village of Aghavnadzor and the Marmarik river basin. Over 50 people helped clean the forest, which is a recreation area, and to raise awareness of the area's youth about the importance of forest biodiversity conservation.



To help celebrate the 2011 International day for Biological Diversity, the City of Montpellier, France, along with 40 of its partners, invited its citizens to take part in a series of biodiversity-related activities.

In Iran, the NGO Hormod Sustainable Development Institute organized a free screening of the film *Siakhkaman*, which is about bacterial biodiversity.

- ▶ **Canada** held a range of activities which included guided hikes at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park in Alberta, the Living Prairie Museum in Manitoba partnered with Winnipeg schools to plant pockets of butterfly gardens around Winnipeg, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter held an outdoor community event that featured readings and short presentations from local biologists and informative displays on northern biodiversity and forest ecology, the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan planned several activities such as a guided walk through the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, a piece of fescue prairie existing within the city limits, to demonstrate how we can live with nature and what we can do to enhance and protect our wild places.
- ▶ **Hungary** staged the European premier of the US documentary *Call of Life* which investigates the growing threat to Earth's life support systems from the loss of biodiversity. The exclusive screening was attended by over 120 people, including the British Ambassador to Hungary and Hungary's State Secretary for the Environment.
- ▶ The Bealtaine Festival of Outdoor Science in **Ireland** featured a week of outdoor events for all ages. The Festival, which the *Guardian* newspaper named one of the top 10 world-wide events for the IDB, included such activities as guided woodland walks, learning to identify birds and how to build bird boxes, building mosaics on the beach with renewable materials, as well as

learning about the country's native trees, bats, insects and landscape.

- ▶ Oasi Zegna organized a trip to the forest in Alta Valsessera, a protected area in Piedmont, **Italy**, in the company of the biologist Matteo Negro. A conference on the importance of conserving and protecting the forest in Alta Valsessera followed the trip.

The City of Montpellier celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity with a variety of activities.





India.

The Association for the Environment and Development of Youth (APEDI) organized a tree-planting ceremony to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity.

- ▶ In **Japan**, the Ministry of the Environment, in coordination with the Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, called for participation in *The Green Wave 2011*, in which children and youth plant and water trees during the period from 1 March through 15 June. Also helping to celebrate the day was an International Summit for Ever Green Forests, held in Aya, Miyazaki Prefecture, which featured the participation of 530 people from Japan, Korea, China and Bhutan, and a symposium organized by the Forestry and Forestry Products Research Institute in Tokyo.
- ▶ Afrika Green Revolution (AGREE) embarked on a rehabilitation campaign in **Kenya** to rehabilitate the much degraded Nyeri Hill forest adjoined to Chania River Line, and the Kiungure Springs Environment Initiative (KSEI) painted murals, among other activities, depicting the benefits of forest conservation, such as ecotourism, fish farming and beekeeping, to create awareness on the need to conserve biodiversity.
- ▶ At a meeting held in Paek District, Xieng Khouang Province, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, some 200 participants representing central agencies, neighbouring provinces, provincial district government agencies, teachers, students, journalists, civil society, international organizations and NGOs, heard speeches on several topics, including on the importance of biodiversity for socio-economic development and poverty reduction, and attended technical sessions, which included dissemination of results and achievements of COP 10 in Nagoya.
- ▶ The Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation in **Pakistan** celebrated by holding a one-day seminar to increase biodiversity awareness and launch the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and the International Year of Forests. Sponsored by the office of the Chief Conservator, Sindh Forests, several speakers briefed participants about biodiversity conservation, forests and other issues. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme and Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, launched a certificate training course on "Environmental Education" (EE). The training, which featured 26 participants, focused on capacity-building and familiarization with current issues of environment across the globe in general, and the local area in particular.
- ▶ In the **Russian Federation**, the NGO Non-commercial Partnership for Birding Development "Birds and People" held a birdwatching competition as an educational tool for students and the public at large to learn more about protecting migratory birds. Sponsored by the Moscow State Department of Natural Resources and Environment Protection, some 42 birding teams comprising more than 200 people registered for the "Birding Cup of Moscow" competition which was held in seven different protected areas throughout Moscow.
- ▶ The Secretariat of the National

Committee for Biological Diversity (NCBD) and Nature Department under the Administration of Environment in The former Yugoslav **Republic of Macedonia** prepared a programme of activities that included presentations on the most relevant biodiversity-related activities over the past decade, as well as on the future challenges faced by the Republic of Macedonia in biodiversity conservation by 2020. Brochures, posters and other educational materials were also distributed.

- ▶ The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment in **Tunisia** organized a regional workshop titled “For a participative management of forest ecosystems and protected areas”, attended by some 90 participants representing various sectors, departments and civil society
- ▶ The NGO KuzeyDoga Society in **Turkey** organized a field trip for students to the Sarikamis Forest-Allahuekber Mountains National Park in Kars led by KuzeyDoga’s president. A press conference followed the trip, as well as a screening of a documentary film on the Sarakamis Forest and its biodiversity. The day concluded with

participants receiving KuzeyDoga’s “Mammals of Eastern Turkey” calendar.

- ▶ In **Uganda**, an NGO comprised of “professional conservationists and enthusiasts”, Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBI-COU), organized a public lecture, with the main topic being “Forestry biodiversity and peoples livelihood in Uganda: Challenges and Opportunities.” The Executive Director of the National Environment Management Authority was the chief presenter for the event.
- ▶ The Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA) of the **United Arab Emirates**, in aiming to raise the awareness of students and different members of the community, organized a field trip to Khor Muzahmi. Sixty students from higher secondary schools and volunteers from the Social Development Center participated in the event which included identifying the species living in the area. Students were also examined on their knowledge and awareness of biodiversity. The EPDA also held a lecture on the impacts of biodiversity on mankind to Higher College of Technologies students.

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#### FACT

Deforestation accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

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## Raising biodiversity awareness through the Rio Conventions Pavilion

In 2011, the Rio Conventions Pavilion convened at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCCD) in Changwon, Republic of Korea, and at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 17 in Durban, South Africa. Building on the collaboration at these meetings, the Pavilion will again convene at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012 (Rio +20 Earth Summit).

The Rio Conventions Pavilion is a platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific findings on the co-benefits that can be realized through implementation of the three Rio Conventions. The Pavilion is a collaborative effort between the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions and the Global

Environment Facility, in addition to a growing list of other global and local partners.

Launched during the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, the Rio Conventions Pavilion convened at the margins of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Nagoya and was held in 'virtual' format at the UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico.

Through highlighting a number of themes and cross-cutting issues relevant to the three Rio Conventions, and their common objective to support sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Pavilion will enable the identification of synergies and co-benefits for the implementation of the three Rio Conventions.

Over the two weeks of the UNCCD COP 10 meeting, more than one thousand partners and Parties discussed themes relevant to the three Rio

### FACT

Forests play a critical role in ensuring a sustainable water supply and the transition of society towards green economies. Wood energy, green infrastructure and forests as carbon sinks represent opportunities for the forest sector.



Conventions, showcasing implementation of the Conventions at both local and national levels in the Rio Conventions Pavilion. This was the first convening of the Pavilion at a meeting of the COP to the Convention on Desertification.

Twenty-nine sessions were held on themes such as: Food security and combating hunger through sustainable land management; The role of gender in the implementation of the Rio conventions; Poverty reduction; Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change – addressing adaptation and mitigation; Opportunities and challenges in sustainable forest management and REDD+; Several sessions under sustainable land management, including: Case-studies and partnerships from around the world; Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable land management; Decision-support tools for sustainable land management and food security and combating hunger through sustainable land management.

The second edition of the Rio Conventions Pavilion for 2011 was held in Durban, South Africa during the UNFCCC COP 17. It was hosted at the Climate Change Response Expo by the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa. Over the duration of the Pavilion partners, Parties and the general public came together to discuss issues relevant to sustainable land management, biodiversity and climate change under such diverse themes as ecosystems based adaptation, oceans, indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge, forests, cities and business and biodiversity.

The Pavilion, through highlighting a number of themes and cross-cutting issues relevant to the three Rio Conventions, was able to identify synergies for the implementation of the Conventions. These synergies were identified during events such as Gender Day, the Adaptation Days, Cities Day and Land Day 5, which featured the participation of the Deputy President of South Africa, Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe. Of particular importance for identifying synergies was also the high level segment of the Pavilion, which enjoyed the participation of the Minister of Home Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

## Rwanda's forest policy wins Future Policy Award

Rwanda's National Forest Policy was awarded the 2011 Future Policy Award on 21 September 2011 for a forest policy which most effectively contributed to the conservation and sustainable development of forests for the benefit of current and future generations at a reception hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Future Council.

The Future Policy Award aims to raise awareness on global policies and speed up policy action.

The first Silver Award went to The Gambia's Community Forest Policy, which has achieved sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation by handing control of forests to the communities that use them. The second Silver Award went to the United States Lacey Act amendment of 2008 which prohibits all trade in wood and plant products knowingly illegally sourced from a US state or foreign country.

## MISIA helps raise biodiversity profile

As honorary ambassador for COP10, MISIA was active throughout 2011 in efforts to raise awareness on biodiversity.

Her charity organization, mudef (Music Design Foundation), launched the five-year “MISIA Forest Project” in collaboration with Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan and supporting organizations. A five-hectare forest in Prefectural Forest Park was provided by the prefecture for this initiative. Starting with the official launch on 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity, many events were held in this forest to raise awareness of biodiversity, including *The Green Wave* tree planting, discovering nature events for children using portable video game players as cameras and voice recorders to develop a nature self-guide program, and an exhibition of bird houses designed by artists.

MISIA also actively worked on the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB). She created a message song, movie, posters, postcards, quiz sheets and website for UNDB in collaboration with Japan’s Ministry of Environment. The movie was first screened at the high-level event on biodiversity held during the opening week of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in September. The movie is being shown on international and national flights of Japan Airlines (JAL) beginning 1 December 2011.

She has also been introducing biodiversity at her concerts using these materials and inviting audiences to try her “Biodiversity Quiz”. Her current concert tour started in October 2011 and will last until February 2012. Over 80,000 people are expected to see her.

At the launch of JAL’s special plane featuring the UNDB logo MISIA said: “I think it is very important that more and more people become able to feel biodiversity as part their daily life when coming in contact with the sea, water, air, the sun, the earth and trees. We live as a part of a web of life, as part of biodiversity.”

You can follow MISIA’s latest activities at: [www.cbd.int/cop10-ambassador/](http://www.cbd.int/cop10-ambassador/) and at <http://mudef.net/>.



## UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity visits Rwanda



United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity Edward Norton paid a three-day visit to Rwanda in February 2011, his first official country-visit since being appointed by the United Nations Secretary General in 2010. Accompanied by the CBD Executive Secretary, the actor and conservation activist met with Prime Minister Bernard Makuza, the Minister of the Environment and Lands, Ambassador Stanislas Kamanzi, and other government officials to learn about work being undertaken in Rwanda to ensure sustainable management of its biodiversity and land resources as a contribution to Rwanda's sustainable development.

Mr. Norton, who says his commitment to promote the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity was spurred by the realization that many people considered biodiversity an abstract concept, also met with the Head of the United Nations in Rwanda, United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Aurélien Agbénonci, and the staff of the UN agencies that are supporting Rwanda in its development. Mr. Norton also visited the Eastern and Northern Provinces, as well as other areas including: Akagera National Park, the Nyabarongo River catchment, the shores of Lakes Cyohoha, Sake and Mugesera. Rwanda is currently undertaking two major biodiversity conservation projects implemented by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority with support of the Global Environment Facility. In addition to his trip to Rwanda, Mr. Norton also attended the Governing Council meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, and visited a community supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme in Central Kenya with the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma.

## Japan Airlines flies UNDB logo on "Eco Jet"



Japan Airlines President, Mr. Masaru Onishi, introduced the UNDB logo to the livery of JAL's Eco Jet.

To help mainstream biodiversity, Japan Airlines (JAL) added the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) logo in October 2011 to its JAL Eco Jet "Nature", a Boeing 777-200 scheduled to fly domestic routes, to convey the importance of protecting Japan's natural beauty through various environmental activities. The airline is also using its Eco Jet to promote the nature-friendly rebuilding of Tohoku, an area rich in nature, devastated by the 11 March earthquake, by supporting the Ministry of Environment's "Sanriku Fukko (recovery) National Park" concept and the "Tohoku Cotton Project" for rebuilding agriculture in the affected area.

During the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the JAL Group was recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Environment as an Eco-First company, with JAL helping to raise public awareness of the Nagoya biodiversity summit in October 2010 by adding the logo and slogan of the meeting, Life in Harmony, into the future, to its Boeing 777-200 Eco Jet. The slogan was, among other things, featured in the airline's in-flight magazine, videos, and on various origami and picture books distributed onboard.

In October, Japan Airlines President, Mr. Masaru Onishi, introduced the UNDB logo to the livery of JAL's Eco Jet, stating: "The desire to experience different cultures is one of the factors that motivate people to travel. We recognize the importance for airlines to protect biodiversity... Japan Airlines will thus continue its long, sustained cooperation for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in ways unique to an airline." The official video for the Decade is included in the in-flight entertainment of all JAL international flights and the Decade is being publicized in their in-flight magazine.

## Arabic version of CBD website inaugurated

The Arabic version of the CBD website was launched in June at the occasion of the opening of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The Arabic version was launched as a contribution to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and achieving the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, also known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The launch of the Arabic version of the CBD website was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thanks to the financial support of the French Government and the Government of Spain, the CBD website is also available in French and Spanish.



## Apples mark the spot for biodiversity awareness

**T**hrough the CBD Secretariat's partnership with the Conseil Général de Moselle of France, marked apples were produced with the logo of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and offered to the signatories of the Convention's Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

In 2010, the Conseil Général de Moselle produced marked apples with the logo of the International Year of Biodiversity. These apples were handed over to the heads of delegation attending the high-level segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Nagoya, Japan, on 27-28 October 2010.

Marked apples were also given to the three winners of the 2011 World Futures Award on the best

forest policy, during a ceremony hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, a partner of the Convention Secretariat, at New York's Central Park Zoo on 21 September. Ministers attending the ministerial breakfast on access and benefit-sharing, held in New York on 22 September on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the UN General Assembly and attended by over 200 participants, also received marked apples.

The marked or "illustrated" apple is an ancient tradition that reached its peak in France in the nineteenth century. A method scarcely used in the rest of the world, it was reinvented in Japan in 1970. The entirely natural technique is based on controlling the coloration of the fruit. Thanks to the bagging of the apples, their unpacking, and the setting up of a stencil at key times of their growth, the apples become "fully-fledged masterpieces".



A specially marked apple featuring the UN logo was presented by CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif, right, to the President of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, at a meeting on 24 September. At the meeting, the Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes, adopted on 3 September by past, present, and future presidents of the Conference of the Parties, was handed over, as was an invitation to attend the special meeting of past, present and future presidents of the three Rio Conventions to mark the 20th anniversary of those treaties, scheduled to be held in Switzerland on 3 September 2012.



Tatsushi Terada, Vice Minister, Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Japan; Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; and Yoo Young-sook Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea at the signing ceremony of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing



Monique Barbut, CEO/Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility and Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary and Tatsushi Terada, Vice Minister, Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Japan





## CBD Museum of Nature and Culture

The cultural diversity of human life on Earth is deeply rooted in its biodiversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity's Museum of Nature and Culture provides an opportunity for Parties to share their cultural inheritance with the world, and to showcase their country's unique biological diversity in an artistic and symbolic way. This year several countries contributed donations to the museum, here is a sampling.

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Donation from Guinea; gift from the President of Algeria; gift from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; MISIA, UN Honorary Ambassador to COP 10, donated a kimono in November; donation from the Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary; Iraq's Minister of Environment poses in front of art donated by Iraq to the CBD's Museum of Nature and Culture; gift from the Republic of Moldova.





The Japanese Ambassador to the UN, Tsuneo Nishida, signs the Nagoya Protocol at the UN Headquarters in New York on 11 May.



Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, signs the Nagoya Protocol on 11 May.



Samuel Žbogar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Slovenia, signs on 27 September.

# ABS and the Nagoya Protocol

## Steps towards entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol

Since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, attention has focused on encouraging its early ratification and entry into force. The Protocol is open for signatures by Parties to the Convention at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until 1 February 2012. As of December 2011, 70 countries have signed the Nagoya Protocol and one country (Gabon) has ratified it.

The Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification. The early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol is being encouraged with a view to convene the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol concurrently with the 11th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in October 2012.

In 2011, a large number of activities aimed at creating awareness to the Protocol and promoting its early entry into force have been organized by the Secretariat, including the following:

Two signing ceremonies were held at the UN headquarters in New York at the margins of the ministerial meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the sixty-sixth session of the United

Nations General Assembly and a number of briefing sessions on the Nagoya outcomes were organised for relevant bodies of the United Nations and for Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Addis Ababa, Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Paris and Rome.

In addition, thanks to the financial support provided by the Global Environmental Facility and the Japan Fund, a Medium-sized project (GEF-MSP) is being executed by the Secretariat of the CBD. Under this project, a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities are being carried out to support the ratification and early entry into force of the Protocol.

These activities have included the development of a number of outreach materials highlighting the importance of the Nagoya Protocol, and encouraging its early entry into force and effective implementation. In addition, an online Portal containing all relevant information of relevance to the Nagoya Protocol was also developed by the Secretariat.

To increase awareness of the importance of the Protocol and encourage national decision-makers to take steps towards ratification, briefing sessions for key partners and stakeholders including high ranking government officials and national-level legislators have been organised under the project. The sessions provided an opportunity to provide guidance

### FACT

Forests store more than 1 trillion tons of carbon.



Participants discuss steps towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at the Capacity-building Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing, held in June in Montreal.

Mr. Elliott Ohin, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Togo, signs the Nagoya Protocol on 27 September.

to countries in relation to the signing and ratification processes and the key features of the Protocol.

A component on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol was also included in the regional and sub-regional NBSAPs capacity-building workshops organized during the year in order to reach out to country representatives at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Finally, capacity-building workshops on access and benefit-sharing for national focal points and indigenous and local communities were held back to back with the meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and the Seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

These workshops were an opportunity to discuss steps towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as well as identify capacity-building needs and priorities of Parties and indigenous and local communities. These capacity-building workshops were jointly organized by the Secretariats of the CBD and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both Secretariats at COP 10 recognizing the need for these two instruments to be implemented in a mutually supportive manner.

### Intergovernmental process

In addition to the activities encouraging the early entry into force of the Protocol, the *Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair*

*and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization* met in Montreal, Canada in June 2011.

The Intergovernmental Committee was mandated by COP-10 to prepare for the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. In order to prepare for the discussions of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, an expert meeting was held from 11 to 14 April 2011, in Montreal, Canada, to discuss the modalities of operation of the Access and Benefit-Clearing House. The experts considered matters related to the establishment of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and made recommendations for the consideration of the Intergovernmental Committee.

At the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, held from 6 to 10 June 2011, in Montreal, Canada, the discussions focused on the way forward on a number of issues to support the effective implementation of the Protocol. The Intergovernmental Committee recommended: (1) the development of a pilot phase for the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House to allow information-sharing between Parties (2) the drafting of elements for an awareness-raising strategy based on lessons learned and experiences from countries (3) an expert meeting to discuss elements and options for cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance and address cases of non-compliance with the Protocol; and (4) the development of a strategy for capacity-building based on the domestic needs and priorities of Parties. The second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee will be held in April of 2012.



# The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

## The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress

**D**uring 2011 significant achievements were made under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In the course of the year, two more countries – Morocco and Uruguay – ratified the Protocol, bringing the total number of Parties to 162. On 7 March, the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was also opened for signature at the UN Headquarters in New York and by the end of the year, 36 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety had signed it and one Party – Latvia – had ratified it. The Supplementary Protocol will remain open for signature until 6 March 2012. It will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the 40th instrument of ratification or accession.

The year also witnessed other important accomplishments on various issues under the Protocol. The most notable examples are outlined under the following sub-sections:

### Biosafety Clearing-House

In the first quarter of the year, the Secretariat hosted a training workshop on the Renewed Operations and Content of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) for 32 Regional Advisors under the second UNEP-GEF Project for Continued Enhancement of Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH (BCH II project). In April it also organized the sixth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the BCH (BCH-IAC) to review developments in the BCH and provided advice on how to implement the BCH-related components of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020).

Staff of the Secretariat also participated in sub-regional capacity-building workshops organized by the UNEP-GEF BCH II project for Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa regions to train BCH National Focal Points. During the year, the Secretariat continued to maintain the BCH web pages in the six languages of the United Nations and to further develop

and improve the BCH Central Protocol. The main changes to the BCH implemented during the year include the following:

- ▶ A revamped BCH Training Site aimed at helping BCH users familiarize themselves with the functioning of the BCH's Management Centre without altering the content of the official portal.
- ▶ A new module for the management of National Authorized Users (NAUs).
- ▶ A tool to allow Regional Advisors to manage Hermes training sites.
- ▶ A new online forum, entitled 'BCH on BCH', to promote a better exchange of information and sharing of views and experiences on the current status of the BCH through online discussions.
- ▶ Modifications to several common formats for the submission of information to the BCH.
- ▶ Links to existing detection methods database were introduced in living modified organism (LMO) records.
- ▶ An analyzer tool for the Second National Reports on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

### Capacity-building

During the year, the Secretariat continued to organize and facilitate capacity-building activities to assist Parties to better implement the Protocol. The main activities implemented in this regard include the seventh Coordination Meeting for Governments and organizations implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities and the eighth meeting of the Liaison Group on capacity-building which were held in April in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. With support from the Government of Japan, the Secretariat also organized a Pacific sub-regional capacity-building workshop for the effective implementation of the Biosafety Protocol from 28 to 30 November in Nadi, Fiji, in which 18 participants were updated on recent developments under the Protocol, identified their priority capacity-building needs, and

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### FACT

There is a need to reconcile traditional forest-related knowledge, intellectual property rights and the equitable sharing of benefits between indigenous and local communities and external agents operating in forests.

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Pacific Sub-regional Workshop on Capacity-building for the Effective Implementation of the Biosafety Protocol, 28 - 30 November, Nadi, Fiji.



Asia Sub-regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms, 21 - 25 November, New Delhi, India.



Field visit during the training of trainers workshop on the identification and documentation of LMOs for Central and Eastern Europe, held in Slovenia in April.

discussed a project proposal to strengthen national and regional capacities to implement the Protocol.

### **Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification**

During the year, the Secretariat conducted two regional training-of-trainers workshops on the identification and documentation of LMOs for Asia (in New Delhi, India) and for Central and Eastern Europe (in Ljubljana, Slovenia) with financial support from the Government of Japan and the European Union respectively. Forty-two customs officers and other border control personnel, as well as policy-makers, were trained in the requirements of the Biosafety Protocol regarding LMO identification and documentation, the role of customs officials in enforcing those requirements and basic LMO sampling and detection techniques and methodologies. The Secretariat also launched a Biosafety Technical Series, with publication of the first volume focused on *Standards for Shipments of LMOs*.

### **Liability and Redress**

Throughout the year, the Secretariat implemented several activities to promote awareness and understanding of the provisions of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress with a view to securing its early entry into force. Four regional workshops were organised for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean with financial support from the Government of Japan. Ninety-seven government officials and other stakeholders were introduced to the basic concepts relevant to the

subject of liability and redress, issues and elements commonly addressed in a liability regime and to the provisions and core requirements of the Supplementary Protocol. In addition, the Secretariat held press briefings on the Supplementary Protocol in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Addis Ababa and issued a number of press releases. It also produced a short video on the Supplementary Protocol and an Introductory Note providing basic information about the Supplementary Protocol with a view to facilitating its signature and ratification by Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

### **Socio-economic Considerations**

In response to the requests made by the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Secretariat implemented several activities on the issue of socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding LMOs. It organised online discussion groups and regional online real-time conferences to: analyse capacity-building activities, needs and priorities regarding socio-economic considerations; exchange and analyse information on the use of socio-economic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Protocol; and identify possible issues for further consideration.

In November, the Secretariat also organised a workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of LMOs which was hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi with the financial support of the Government of Norway. The outcomes of these activities will be forwarded to the Parties for their consideration at their sixth meeting.



Participants to the sixth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety, held in Montreal, 30 March - 1 April.



Workshop on Capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of Living Modified Organisms under the Cartagena Protocol, 14 - 16 November, New Delhi, India.



Participants to a biosafety workshop held at the CBD Secretariat in January.

## Public Awareness and Participation

During the year, the Secretariat and Parties embarked on the implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. The Secretariat:

- ▶ Produced a video on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which is available at: [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_media\\_video1.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_media_video1.shtml).
- ▶ Developed a survey form template for Parties to conduct baseline surveys to ascertain the level of public awareness and evaluate public awareness of the issues regarding LMOs. The survey form is available at: [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_art23\\_survey.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art23_survey.shtml).
- ▶ Held, in collaboration with the Redpath Museum, an exhibition highlighting the UN Decade on Biodiversity at McGill University. The event, which was attended by more than 4800 visitors, contributed to raising awareness of the Protocol.
- ▶ Organized a side event with the Aarhus Convention Secretariat in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, during the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. The participants discussed practical ways to maximize synergies in the implementation of the Protocol's programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs and the Aarhus Convention's provisions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- ▶ Produced various publications, including: a Guide to the Roster of Biosafety Experts, a booklet of the text of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, the

COP-MOP 5 decisions booklet and two issues of the bi-annual Biosafety Protocol Newsletter.

## Risk Assessment and Risk Management

During the year, the Secretariat continued to support the process established by the meeting of the Parties to Protocol for the development of guidance on risk assessment of LMOs in the context of the Protocol. It facilitated a series of discussion groups under the Open-ended Online Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management through the BCH and organised the third meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management from 30 May - 3 June 2011 in Mexico City, Mexico. The AHTEG, with support from the Secretariat and input from the Open-ended Online Expert Forum, made revisions to the "Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms". The revised document was made available to Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to test its overall utility and applicability. The Secretariat, with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Japan, also organised three sub-regional training courses on risk assessment of LMOs for the Caribbean (26-30 September in Belize City, Belize), Latin America (7-11 November in Havana, Cuba) and Anglophone Africa (12-16 December in Accra, Ghana). Forty-two experts from Parties were trained in various aspects of risk assessment; including an introduction to the concepts and terminology, the general principles, the steps outlined in annex III to the Cartagena Protocol for conducting a risk assessment and an overview of how to prepare a risk-assessment report.

### FACT

80 percent of the world's forests are publicly owned, but ownership and management of forests by communities, individuals and private companies is on the rise.

# Towards COP11

## The road to India

### *SBSTTA 15 adopts 8 recommendations*

**T**he fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 15), and the first since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in October 2010, saw representatives of government, indigenous and local communities, nongovernmental organizations and civil society discuss a variety of scientific, technical and technological issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, Canada from 7-11 November, saw eight recommendations adopted. These recommendations will be submitted to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11), to be held 8-19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, for their consideration.

Major outcomes of SBSTTA 15 include the agreement on an indicator framework to monitor progress for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at both the global and national levels. Parties also agreed to initiate

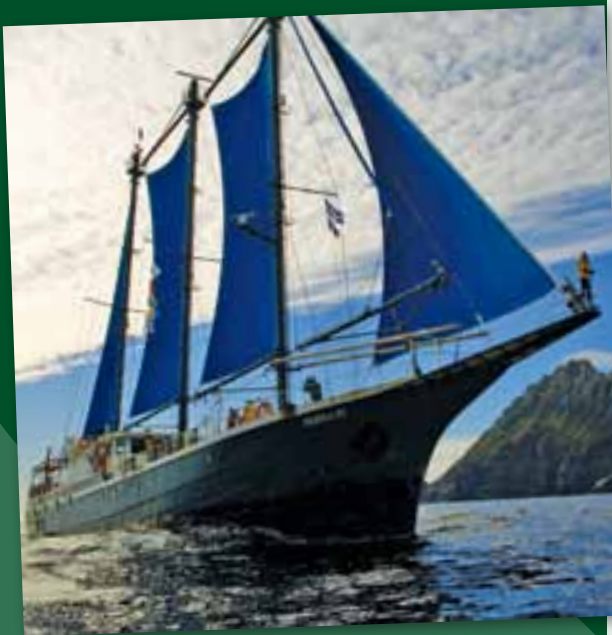
work on ecosystem restoration, recognizing that restoration is an essential element of the package of activities that will be required to implement the Strategic Plan. In this respect the meeting built on the success of COP 10 in Nagoya.

During the five-day meeting the more than 400 participants also considered issues related to inland water ecosystems, such as implications of changes in the water cycles and freshwater resources, Arctic biodiversity, means of addressing the gaps related to international standards on invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species and as live bait and food (a wide-ranging programme to strengthen information available to decision-makers on the spread of invasive alien species was endorsed at the meeting), the sustainable use of biodiversity related to bushmeat and options for small scale food and income alternatives, a capacity building strategy for the global taxonomic initiative, as well as ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA.

#### FACT

More than 1 billion hectares of degraded areas throughout the world are suitable for forest landscape restoration, providing an opportunity for community-based forest management to be woven into other existing rural economic activities.





## 1000 Days for the Planet

Canadian explorer and filmmaker Jean Lemire is preparing to set sail on a “1,000 Days for the Planet” world tour, beginning in January 2012 and scheduled to last three years. The aim of the expedition is to, among other things, understand how our living environment functions and engage in discussions about the conservation challenges facing our planet. Thus the crew of the SEDNA IV oceanographic sailing ship intend to assess the environment, collect testimony, and relate stories about their adventures which will then be narrated and brought to audiences in three major film and televisual productions. They also plan on reaching out to youth via a series of educational activities linked with *The Green Wave* for biodiversity, for which Mr. Lemire is Honorary Ambassador. The SEDNA IV’s odyssey represents a unique communication and outreach vehicle for emerging environmental challenges, particularly biodiversity-related issues, and an exceptional way to contribute to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.



## It was 20 years ago...

2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In honour of this important milestone, a high-level retreat will take place in New York on 22-25 August 2012 at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center. The report of this meeting will be made available to the third meeting of Past, Present and Future Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, on 3 September 2012, and to the high-level segment of COP 11 in India.

The cover of a forthcoming special issue of the CBD publication *Satoyama* celebrating the 20th anniversary of the CBD.



## COP 11 Logo

*Nature Protects if She is Protected*

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in Hyderabad, India, from 8-19 October 2012, and will be preceded by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, being held 1-5 October 2012, also in Hyderabad. The logo, with the slogan *Nature Protects if She is Protected*, builds on the logo of the Nagoya biodiversity summit and symbolizes the cycle of life, with animal forms (a tiger and whale) circling a human being holding a basket of grain.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



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United Nations Decade on Biodiversity